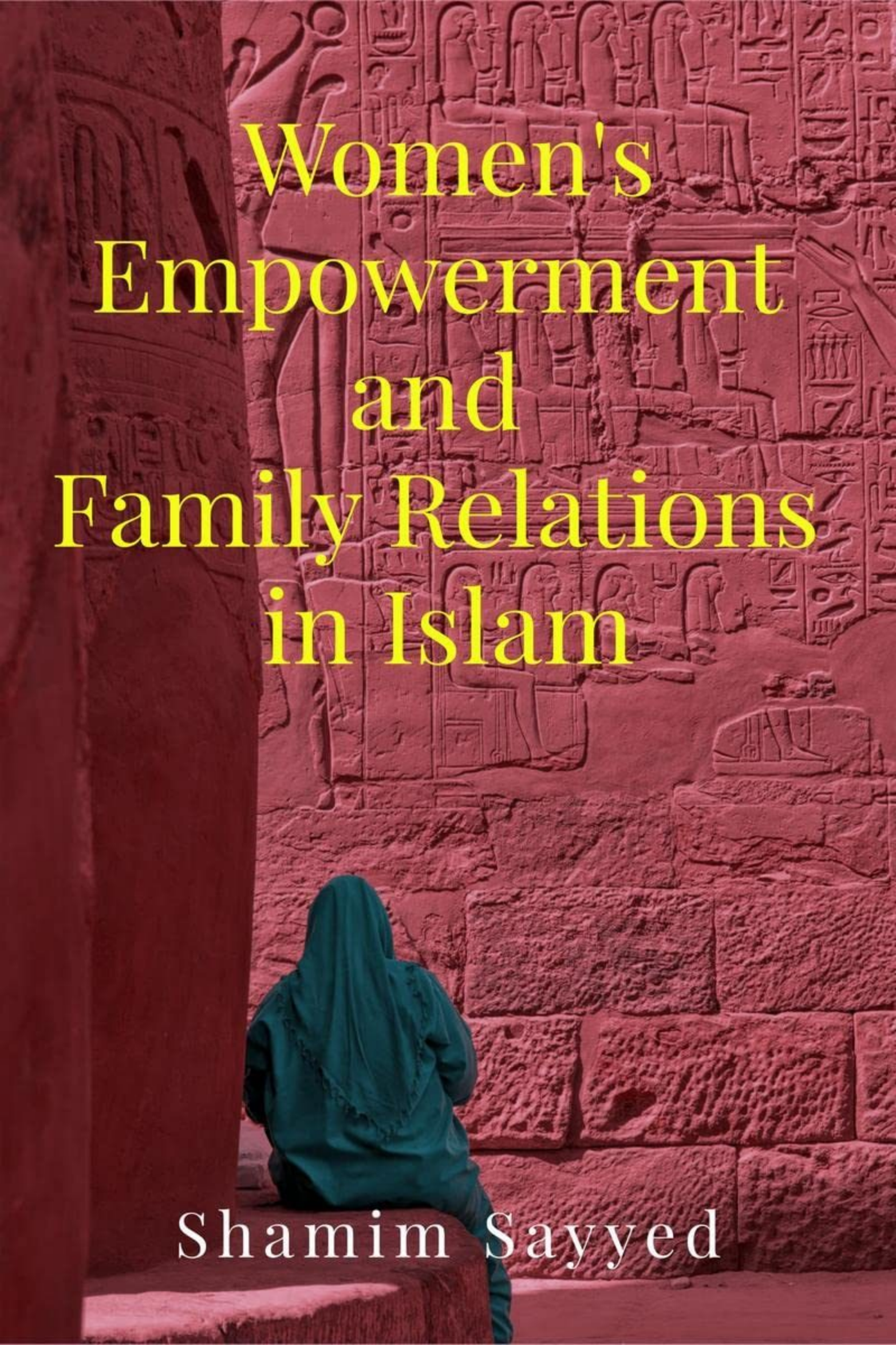

Women's Empowerment and Family Relations in Islam

Shamim Sayyed

SHAMIM SAYYED's

Women's Empowerment and The Family Relations in Islam

(A Comparative Study)

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Dedication

This small piece of my study on women's rights in Islam is dedicated to my father, my inspiration, my mother and my wife who are the sources of my evaluation and surely all women who are still unknown of their rights and status, in this world of men.

Shamim Sayyed

Epigraph

“Read the Scriptures to learn Religion, not the followers. Followers often misguide, not the Scriptures”.

Tamim

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Foreword

"After going through this manuscript, the analysis of Women's Rights in this book is really appreciable, and I myself recommend it to all women to study this case analysis at least once to understand that women are really unaware of their rights provided in Islam.

Mashah-Allah. May Allah reward and accept your every good work. And may your efforts towards humanity becomes a "Sadqay-e-jariya for you. Ameen"

Mahjabeen -Ex-Teacher

Preface

It is usually propagated that Quran is misogynous and women are treated as frivolous beings in Islam, deprived of rights and freedom. It started then when I was compelled to read other religions so that I could understand what is Quran missing. When I compared it with other religions, I find very amazing truth that instead of the Quran, it is the scriptures of all the other religions instead. I am speaking of religion and religious scriptures, and it should not be confused with the women's rights provided by the different human rights organizations or the constitutions of different nations and their rules and amendments.

Honestly speaking, Quran is rather feminist and not only provides many rights to women but sometimes it brings women at par with men or sometimes equal or sometimes above men, but never below the men at least. Quran also raised the status of women to a very respectable, prudent and modest figure in the male-dominated society.

The book not only provides knowledge related to the legislation for women, but also a kind of jurisprudence structure for women too. The book constitutes an analysis of the verses of the Quran & the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Mercy & Blessings of Allah be upon him) and should not be taken as a Book of rulings or otherwise.

Chapter: One

Introduction

To understand women's rights, we must understand first, that why women's rights and against whom:

Before the arrival of the Islamic era (I mean before the revelation of the Quran with divine rules of Rights for both Men & Women) women were treated as a COMMODITY. It was in the 7th Century when divine revelations suddenly arrived from Almighty Allah that illuminated the life of women from dusk to dawn. It is just unbelievable, and why am I speaking in favour of the Quran? Yes, it has a reason, when I read the scriptures of 4 majors (Christianity, Hinduism, Jews & Islam), I found that so far as rights are concerned, it is a concept that I do not find in any other Scriptures, except Quran, to be honest. It's just unimaginable to all those who have not compared all the religious scriptures so far with the Quran.

Surely, it seems that humans might have edited all those Scriptures from time to time to fulfil the demands of the political or religious situation of a country or any region, may be political or religious, because the divine rulings must be always one and the same. Then it will be also said that Quran has also been changed in similar patterns, but then the rights therein that raise the status of women, providing them with the legislation and jurisprudence justifies that the divinity in the Quran is still intact and unchanged. However, in Quran Allah reveals that "Indeed

we have revealed the Quran and Indeed we will be its Guardian" (15:9); "Falsehood cannot touch it neither from before it nor from behind it" (41:42).

It will be better to present some quotes from the scriptures along with the political and cultural position of women before Islam in Arabia and neighboring states, to proceed with better understanding.

◆◆◆

"THE PROPHET (ﷺ) NEVER USED BAD LANGUAGE OR ABUSED, NEITHER BEHAVED INDECENTLY NOR IMMORALY. HE USED TO SAY "THE BEST AMONG YOU ARE THOSE WHO HAVE THE BEST MANNERS AND CHARACTER." BUKHARI 6807

HE USED TO SAY "ALLAH WILL NOT BE MERCIFUL TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT MERCIFUL TO OTHERS" BUKHARI 7376

Chapter: Two

Condition of Women before the Quran

Whenever the rights of women according to religion are discussed, it is necessary to look into the religious commandments and directions that lie inside the Scriptures, not upon the activities of the followers. Followers may or may not follow religious directions. So, looking upon their behaviour as a religious representation is just a religious illusion not a religion in truth. We have to read the scriptures directly not the behaviour of the followers to get inside the basic rulings of that specific religion. As such it is necessary to learn the verses from the original scriptures related to women to get into the real facts and for better appreciation. I want to present a few excerpts from the previous scriptures as a sample of and conditions of women under different political situations that will be sufficient to draw a picture of women's position before Islam's arrival, and even today. All the excerpts are from non-Muslim sources just to avoid any biases and controversies in this regard.

In GREEK society: Demosthenes wrote, "We have courtesans for the sake of pleasure, we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation, and we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately and being faithful guardians for our household affairs." Both male and female prostitution were indescribably rampant, and it is from the Greek term for prostitution and general unchastity (porneia) from where we get the word pornography. Husbands typically found their sexual

gratification with concubines and prostitutes, whereas wives, often with the encouragement of their husbands, found sexual gratification with their slaves, both male and female. Prostitution, homosexuality, and the many other forms of sexual promiscuity and perversion inevitably resulted in widespread sexual abuse of children — just as we see in our own day-to-day.

Females were occupied with nurturing their children and carrying out household duties. Restricted and secluded within the household, women were compared to "mere adolescents" (Pomeroy, p. 21). Giving birth to a girl was seen as an embarrassment and disgrace. After giving birth to a daughter, a mother would "turn her head away" from her husband "in shame" (demand, p. 6). A father would not even consider his own daughters as his children: "men often do not count daughters when asked how many children they have" (demand, p. 6). Females were neglected and looked down upon starting the day they were born. Greece enforced that a "woman's job…was to supervise the household" (Arthur, p. 88).

Moreover, in the household, the relationship between the wife and husband was "not equal in terms of power" (Pomeroy, p. 22). Females had a lower social status than males. In Ancient Greece, women were mistreated, degraded, and controlled.

In Roman society, according to, *["The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians by John MacArthur"]* things were worse still. Marriage was little more than legalized prostitution, with divorce being an easy legal formality that could be taken advantage of as often as desired. Many women did not want to have children because it ruined their bodies, and feminism became common. Desiring to do everything men did,

some women went into wrestling, sword fighting, and various other pursuits traditionally considered to be uniquely masculine. Some liked to run bare-breasted while hunting wild pigs. Women began to lord it over men and increasingly took the initiative in getting a divorce.

Reflecting on these three situations shows that in all situations, women were treated terribly and men used their social privilege for their own advantage”

Ancient Greek woman, Hypatia was accused of engaging in witchcraft. She was stoned to death.

WORLD HISTORY | November 26, 2018

HYPATIA (c.370-415) mathematician and philosopher (NEOPLATONIST), murdered by the followers of Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria.Mid-19th century artist's reconstruction. (Photo by: Universal History Archive/UIG via Getty Images)

The contributions of women were often downplayed or disregarded, particularly in ancient times. But history has shown us that a number of important women in ancient Greece helped to shape classic thinking and left their imprint on the culture. Many of them laid the foundation for the remarkable women who came after them and helped to blaze a trail for gender equality. Let's take a look at a few of the notable women of ancient Greece and their contributions to the world.

<u>The picture has been collected from Google for educational purposes only</u>

“**<u>In the Jewish and Christian world</u>**, According to ***B.M. Metzger & M.D. Coogan, “The Oxford Companion to the Bible”, Oxford University Press, New York, NY, (1993), P. 806***

to 818, In the 1st century, women were little more than servants. Many Jewish men prayed each morning, "God, I thank you that I am not a Gentile, a slave, or a woman." The provision for divorce and remarriage in Deuteronomy 24 had been distorted to include virtually any offence or disfavour in the eyes of the husband. **Few verses will make it clear**

- Rabbi Bahya Ben-Asher, a 13th-century scholar and one of the most distinguished exegetes of the Torah, said: "The female is irrelevant in creation, as she is only like a leech, clinging to the main thing, taken from it for its usage. She is made special for its usage as one of his special parts for its own usage".
- The Sanhedrin was the highest religious body of pre-modern Judaism. In the Tractate Sanhedrin 11 page 100, it is said: Woe to him whose children are females.
- In Midrash Genesis Rabbah 17: Once Eve was created, Satan was created with her
- In Tractate Sotah 21: Whoever teaches his daughter the Torah, teaches her obscenity
- Rabbi Levi Ben Gershon, another one of Judaism's top religious authorities from the 13th century, said: 'She has no more qualities than animals if she even has a brain
- The Rambam writes that a woman is ready to have sexual relations at age 3, and to give birth at age 12. (BT Niddha 45:71)
- Jerusalem Talmud, Shabbat Tractate chapter 6 pg.33 states that it is forbidden to give jewellery to women because they are arrogant.
- "…the wife's desire shall be to her husband, and he shall rule over there." (Genesis 3:16),
- Polygamy is unlimited in terms of Genesis 4:19,

- father can sell his daughter as a slave (Exodus 21:7), then there is no freedom for her to be a woman (exodus 21:7),
- A woman is like property and should be dealt with accordingly (Exodus 22: 16-25),
- Women cannot become a priest and cannot participate in any religious festival (Exodus 23:17, Leviticus),
- To give birth to a girl is twice as polluting as is giving birth to a boy (Leviticus 12:1-5),
- In Leviticus 18:20 adultery was defined as a man having sexual intercourse with his neighbour's wife. However, if a man has an affair with an unmarried woman, the act is not considered adultery. Married men were free to visit prostitutes. A man who committed adultery did not commit a wrongful act against his own wife, but rather against his male neighbour, as per Deuteronomy 22:23,
- A child aged 1 month to five years was worth 5 shekels if a boy and 3 shekels if a girl. (Leviticus 27:6), Numbers 3:15 shows that a census counted only male infants over the age of one month, boys, and men. Females were not considered worthy of being included.
- In Numbers 27:8-11, Moses describes the rules of inheritance that God has stated. If a man dies, his son inherits the estate; his daughter gets nothing.
- Numbers 30 describes that a vow taken by a man is binding. But a vow taken by a woman can be nullified by her father,
- Deuteronomy 21:10-13 describes how a soldier can force a woman captive to marry him without regard for her wishes.
- Deuteronomy 22:13-21 requires that a woman be a virgin when she is married. If she has had sexual relations while single in her father's house, then she would be stoned to

death. There were no similar virginity requirements for men.

- Deuteronomy 22:28-29 requires that a virgin woman who has been raped must marry her attacker, no matter what her feelings are towards the rapist.
- Deuteronomy 24:1 describes the procedure for obtaining a divorce. This can only be initiated by the husband, not by the wife,
- Deuteronomy 25:5-10: states that if a woman is widowed, she would be required to marry her former brother-in-law. This was called a "levirate" marriage. Their firstborn son will be later considered to be the son of the deceased husband. The man could refuse to marry her. Women were not given a choice in the matter. "If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother unto her."
- Deuteronomy 25:11: If two men are fighting, and the wife of one of them grabs the other man's testicles, her hand is to be chopped off, do not have pity on her. There is no penalty if a male relative were to grab the other man.
- Judges 19:16-30 describes an event like Genesis 19. Some men in the city wanted to "know" a visiting Levite. The owner of the house offered his virgin daughter and the Levite's concubine so that the men could rape them.
- During the Second Temple period, women were not allowed to testify in court trials. They could not go out in public, or talk to strangers. When outside their homes, they were to be doubly veiled. They had become second-

class Jews, excluded from the worship and teaching of God, with status scarcely above that of slaves"

According to Buddhists Scriptures

Diana Paul, herself a Buddhist scholar, wrote a book, *Women in Buddhism*, which she begins as such, p.3:

Traditional Buddhist attitudes toward women as inferior reflect a view of women as temptresses or evil incarnate. The lustful woman is seen with unrestrained sensuality, perhaps irrevocably so. She has an animalistic nature associated with innate sexual drives not found in the nature of the male. Buddhist literature implies that woman is biologically determined to be sexually uncontrollable. By despising her own nature, a woman can perhaps deny her biological destiny of depravity.

Women as animalistic, unrestrained, and evil incarnate?

She then goes on to quote traditional sacred texts from Buddhism. We can't bring all the sources here, but this is what we get in "The Tale of King Udayana of Vatsa" from the *Maharatnakuṭa Sutra*, an influential collection of canonical texts that she quotes in pp. 41-42:

Just as a fire in a deep pit
Can cause fire damage without smoking.
A woman also can be
Cruel without pity.
As the filth and decay
Of a dead dog or dead snake

Are burned away,

So all men should burn filth

And detest evil.

The dead snake and dog

Are detestable,

But women are even more

Detestable than they are.

Women will appreciate the poetry! Especially the parts about being more detestable than dogs and dead snakes. Let's also bring the *Andabhuta Jataka*.

Jatakas are basically a set of fictional literature about the "previous births" of the historical Buddha. *Andabhuta Jataka* is number 62 in such fairy tales.

A sex composed of wickedness and guile,

Unknowable; uncertain as the path

Of fishes in the water, —womankind

Hold truth for falsehood, falsehood for the truth!

As greedily as cows seek pastures new,

Women, unsated, yearn for a mate on mate.

As sand unstable, cruel as the snake,

Women know all things; naught from them is hid!

What's up with Buddha — in all his "incarnations" — comparing women with snakes?! Should we, women, could multiply these "verses" denigrating women as being the very *embodiment of evil*?

Let's take Shinran, a 12th-century Japanese monk. He's the founder of the "*True* Pure Land Buddhism" branch of the "Pure Land Buddhism" school. To not get too technical, just think of it as *the* most followed Buddhist sub-sect in Japan, Japan itself having the third highest numbers of Buddhists (after China and Thailand), and, in the West at least, Buddhism is often seen through the Japanese experience. So, what did one of the most influential Japanese-Buddhist monks think of women?

We read in *The Essential Shinran: A Buddhist Path of True Entrusting*, p. 186:

So profound is Amida's great compassion

That, manifesting inconceivable Buddha wisdom,

The Buddha established the Vow of transformation into men,

Thereby vowing to enable women to attain Buddhahood.

So, women can reach "Buddha-hood" (their notion of "enlightenment") by… becoming men. After all, Buddha was such a vile misogynist! (As written by Diana Paul, herself a Buddhist scholar, in her book *Women in Buddhism)*

In Hinduism, a few verses from Manusmriti have been collected for reference:

2:213. It is the nature of women to seduce men, as such wise should remain guarded in the company of females

2:214. Women can lead astray not only fools but the learned man too, making them slaves of desire and anger

2:215. Even the leaned one should not sit with one's mother, sister, or daughter

3:8-11. A learned man should not marry a maiden with red hair, who is sickly, or the one who has no hair in the body or too much hair, or the one who has garrulous or red eye, or the one who has been named after a constellation, or a tree or river or the one who has a name of low caste or of a snake, mountain, bird, snake, slave or the one who bears a horrible name that inspires terror, or one who has a bodily defect, or a maiden who has no brother, father is not known, etc.

3:10. Let him marry who has a good name, who has a gait of an elephant, has moderate hair on the body, on the head, with small teeth and soft limbs, free from bodily defects, and marry a maiden who has no brother

3.12. For the first marriage of twice-born men wives of equal caste are recommended; but for those who through desire proceed to marry again the following females, chosen according to the direct order of the castes, are most approved.

3.13. It is declared that a Sudra woman alone can be the wife of a Sudra, she and one of his own caste the wives of a Vaisya, those two and one of his own caste the wives of a Kshatriya, those three and one of his own caste the wives of a Brahmans.

3.14. A Sudra woman is not mentioned even in any ancient story as the first wife of a Brahmana or of a Kshatriya, though they lived in the greatest distress.

3.15. Twice-born men who, in their folly, wed wives of the low caste, Sudra, soon degrade their families and their children to the state of Sudras.

3.16. According to Atri and to Gautama the son of Utathya, he who weds a Sudra woman becomes an outcast, according to Saunaka on the birth of a son, and according to Bhrigu he who has male offspring from a Sudra female, alone.

3.17. A Brahmana who takes a Sudra wife to his bed, will after death sink into hell; if he begets a child by her, he will lose the rank of a Brahmana.

3.18. The manes and the gods will not eat the offerings of that man who performs the rites in honour of the gods, of the manes, and of guests chiefly with a Sudra's wife in assistance, and such a man will not go to heaven.

5.147. By a girl, by a young woman, or even by an aged one, nothing must be done by them anything independently, even in her own house.

5.148. In childhood, a female must be subject to her father. in youth to her husband, when her lord is dead to her sons; a woman must never be independent.

5.149. She must not seek to separate herself from her father, husband, or sons: by leaving them she would make both her own and her husband's families contemptible.

5.160. A virtuous wife who after the death of her husband constantly remains chaste, reaches heaven, though she has no son, just like those chaste men.

5.161. But a woman who from a desire to have offspring violates her duty towards her deceased husband. brings on herself disgrace in this world, and loses her place with her husband in heaven.

5.162. Offspring begotten by another man is here not considered lawful, nor does offspring begotten on another man's wife belong to the begetter, nor is a second husband anywhere prescribed for virtuous women.

5.163. She who cohabits with a man of a higher caste, forsaking her own husband who belongs to a lower one, will become contemptible in this world and is called a remarried woman parapurva.

5.164. By violating her duty towards her husband, a wife is disgraced in this world. (After death) she enters the womb of a jackal. and is tormented by diseases (the punishment of) her sin.

In Ancient Indo-Aryan society, most of the problems like Child Marriage, the Dowry system, Bride-Burning; No rights in their paternal property, Mass Wife-Burning (Jauhar) and Widow-Burning (Sati) [as per Rig Veda, Vishnu Purana, etc.], no education for low caste women, also cutting off the ears and nose of women for offence (in Ramayana), the death penalty for infidelity, adultery, etc. [Manu smriti], all have their roots in ancient India according to the verses of Scriptures". Sita even being the wife of Lord Ram was banished to jungles on mere suspicion of infidelity and adultery.

Even in the current situation, there is Domestic Violence, Dowry problems, forced marriage, honour killing, dowry-related abuses and oppression, abortion of girl child, gender inequality, woman

trafficking, and the most heinous is Rape. According to India's National Crime Records Bureau, more than 28,000 cases of alleged rape against women were reported in 2020. One Rape is roughly 18 minutes. Experts believe the real number is much higher as many go unreported out of fear.

Sati in ancient India (Picture source Google)

(*https://society—culture.blogspot.com/2015/09/sati-or-suttee-in-Indian-culture.html*),

(https://listverse.com/2011/03/10/10-horrifying-acts-of-self-immolation/)

The number of reported rapes rose in the years following the brutal 2012 gang rape and murder of a student in India's capital, New Delhi, potentially because of greater awareness surrounding the issue since. Experts say the outrage has helped to lift the shame around discussing rape. Legal reforms and more severe

penalties for rape were introduced in the aftermath, which include fast-tracking courts to hear rape cases more swiftly, and an amended definition of rape to include anal and oral penetration.

However, high—profile rape cases continue to make headlines. In September this year (2021), police arrested 33 men for the alleged gang rape of a 15-year-old girl in Maharashtra. Such a heinous level of brutality even in this age of Human Rights endorsements.

In a separate case that month, a woman died after she was allegedly raped and assaulted with an iron rod in Mumbai. And in August this year (2021), a 9-year-old girl was gang—raped and murdered in Delhi.

The story continues with an increase in both the Quality and Quantity of Rape at present in 2022 when it was in the news that an 80-year-old man for the alleged 'digital rape' of a 17-year-old girl over 7 years.

(https://zeenews.india.com/india/noida-horror-80-year-old-man-digitally-rapes-minor-for-7-years-held-2464044.html)

Day after day Rape has become a new normal in India with a very beastly approach. Even the women have become tired of protests, as protests are now not seen from any of the women's organizations what was seen when Nirbhaya was heinously raped, brutally tortured and killed.

In this era of 5G, women are on roads searching for their rights. Is not it a hypocrisy to declare that the human constitution today

has succeeded in providing rights to women and that women are enjoying real freedom in society?

(https://edition.cnn.com/2022/08/23/asia/india-gang-rape-petition-overturn-court-hearing-intl-hnk/index.html

This instance of a judgment below indicates sympathy towards the rapist because he spared the life of a 4-year-old after raping that kid

(https://inshorts.com/en/news/he-was-kind-enough-to-leave-4yrold-girl-alive-hc-on-reducing-life-sentence-of-her-rapist-1666494089721))

He was kind enough to leave 4-yr-old girl alive: HC on reducing life sentence of her rapist

short by Arshiya Chopra / 08:31 am on 23 Oct 2022,Sunday

Madhya Pradesh High Court has reduced the sentence of life imprisonment, awarded to a man convicted of raping a four-year-old girl, to 20-year rigorous imprisonment. "Considering the fact that he was kind enough to leave the prosecutrix alive, this court is of the opinion that the life imprisonment can be reduced," the court said while calling the crime "demonic".

A judgement with a sympathy to the criminal

Every Third Woman in India Suffers Sexual and Physical Violence at Home. According to the survey, 27 per cent of women have experienced physical violence since the age 15 in India. This experience of physical violence among women is more common in rural areas than among women in urban areas. Domestic violence cases, where women reported physical abuse

in rural and urban areas, were at 29 per cent and 23 percent, respectively.

(https://www.news18.com/news/india/the-elephant-in-the-room-every-third-woman-in-india-faces-domestic-violence-1654193.html)

Even in this morally upgraded educated society, these things indicate that there is something wrong in our society that indicates degradation and humiliation towards women.

Precisely we can understand that the way religious scriptures treat women is still seen to be followed today in some societies whether it is developed or underdeveloped nations, which will be discussed in later chapters but first, let us proceed to the ***"Condition of Women in Arabia before Islam"***

◆◆◆

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), said

"Beware of Jealousy, for it destroys your character as a fire destroys wood"-

Chapter: Three

Condition of Women in Arabia before the Quran

To understand women's rights, first, we must understand, why women's rights? Even in this age of morally developed society, whenever people speak of women's rights they indicate and declare the discrimination and the failure to ensure women the rights whether more or at par with men at least. But why did the question of Rights arrive? It is now necessary to investigate the aspects of the life and condition of women during the pre-Islamic era. I mean before the revelation of the Quran with divine rules of Rights for both Men & Women.

From the pages of history, the Quran & Hadith it is found that the poor and people of the low level of society were basically the victims of the upper class & rich. There was a prevailing system of slavery, gender-based differentiation, the killing of the girl child, etc. The women of rich or rich women like Khadijah (wife of the Prophet) even before the arrival of Islam enjoyed the liberty of their own kind like self-employed entrepreneurship, proposing for marriage to a man (Prophet) etc., the wife of Abu Sufiyan, Hinda fought in the battlefield against Prophet & the advent of Islam.

However, there was much evil in the society, which is well-defined in the Quran and Hadith itself. Jafar ibn Abi Taalib (may Allah be pleased with him) summed up their situation during the 'Jaahiliyyah' when he said before the Negus (ruler) in Ethiopia,

when he migrated there: "We were a people of ignorance, worshipping idols, eating dead meat, committing abominations, severing ties of kinship, treating neighbours badly, and the strong among us devoured the weak. [Hadis from Ahmad (3/265)].

The situation of Pre-Islamic Arabia as revealed through the Quran & Hadith, and collected from the pages of history are as follows:

I. Age of Ignorance & Illiteracy:

The 7th century was the age of ignorance, where there were no consolidated political system and people were illiterate. Quran says it was an age of "Jahiliyat" (3:154), ignorance & illiteracy (al-jahiliyyah 5:50) and the age of Darkness. Honour killing, battles, captivity, slavery etc were dominant.

[The verses: *"After sorrow, Allah caused calm to descend upon you, a sleep that overtook some of you. Another group, caring only for themselves, entertained false thoughts about God, thoughts more appropriate to pagan ignorance [al-Jahiliya or illiteracy and ignorance before Islam], and said, 'Do we get a say in any of this?' [O Prophet], tell them, 'Everything to do with this affair is in God's hands.' [3:154]*

"Do they want judgement according to the time of pagan ignorance? Is there any better judge than God for those of firm faith"? [5:50]

II. The Ancestry:

The Arabs have their links of ancestry with Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham, Peace be upon him). In terms of the Quran & Hadith, there is a mention that Prophet Abraham left his wife Hagar in the desert of Arabia where she gave birth to Prophet Ishmael. It was Ishmael who brought Zam-Zam (the sweet water source in the desert of the Arab) into existence and later Kaaba was built. Ishmael married the daughter of Mudad tribe and have 12 sons which later grew into 12 tribes, some of them spread to Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Egypt etc.

Prophet Muhammad [Peace be upon him] said: "Allah selected Ishmael from the sons of Abraham, Kinana from the sons of Ishmael, Quraish from the sons of Kinana, Hashim from the sons of Quraish and He selected me from the sons of Hashim." [Muslim 2/245; Tirmidhi 2/201]

Abbas bin 'Abdul-Muttalib quoted the Messenger of Allah [Peace be upon him] as saying: "Allah created mankind and chose me from the best whereof, He chose the tribes and selected me from the best whereof, and He chose families and selected me from the best whereof. I am the very best in person and family." [Hadith from Tirmidhi 2/201]

III. **Religion & Superstition**:

They worshipped one supreme God of Prophet Abraham keeping the faith of Prophet Ibrahim intact. But side by side they started following idols of different kinds based on their necessities. People were basically idol worshippers (Quran 10:18) and highly superstition. Idol worshipping and its different customs and rituals were introduced by one highly reputed religious man of

Arabia called Amr bin Luhai. Idols were thought to be a mediator to one supreme god (Quran 39:3), (Quran 10:18). Hubbal was one supreme idol god whereas there were other idol gods like Mannat, Laat, Uzza etc. They offered different types of sacrifices to them like cattle, food items, etc (5:3, 6:121, 6:136, 6:138, 5:103, 6:139).

[The verses: ***"Indeed, sincere devotion is due only to Allah. As for <u>those who take other lords beside Him</u>, saying, "We worship them only so <u>they may bring us closer to Allah</u>," surely Allah will judge between all regarding what they differed about. Allah certainly does not guide whoever persists in lying and disbelief" [39:3]***

"*<u>They worship besides Allah</u>* others who can neither harm nor benefit them, and say, "T<u>hese are our intercessors with Allah</u>." [10:18]

From this verse we get their food habits and other rituals etc. ***"Prohibited for you are carrion and blood and the flesh of swine, and what was dedicated to other than Allah, and the strangled and the beaten (to death) and the toppled (to death) and the gored (to death) and the(partly) eaten by a wild animal—except what you (are able to) slaughter (before its death) —and what was sacrificed on altars, and that you determine shares through divination. All that is grave disobedience" [5:3]***

"Allah has made livestock lawful for you to consume. He has not made unlawful what the idolaters declared unlawful for themselves when dedicating them to their idols, such as bahirah, a she-camel whose ear is cut after it gives birth to a

certain number; or saibah, a she-camel that is left for the idols after it reaches a certain age; or wasilah, a she-camel that gives birth to one female after another; or hami, a male camel stud that mates with other camels and produces a given number of offspring. Allah did not make any of these, but the disbelievers falsely claimed that Allah had forbidden these things. Most disbelievers do not differentiate between truth and falsehood and between the lawful and the unlawful". [Abridged Explanation of the Quran verse 5:103]

"The pagans set aside for Allah a share of the crops and cattle He created, saying, "This portion is for Allah," so they claim, "and this one <u>for our associate-gods</u>." Yet the portion of their associate gods is not shared with Allah while Allah's portion is shared with their associate gods. What unfair judgment"! [6:136]

Further verse 6:137-139 speaks of superstition during the time of ignorance.

Besides that, they also worshipped stars, the sun, and the moon. They used to go around the Kaaba without dress, men, and women alike. (7:31) Even if they have clothes or go around Kaaba with clothes, then they must discard them after a short period and must circumambulate the Kaaba nude [Bukhari 1/226; Ibn Hisham 1/202]

The verse: ***<u>"O Children of Adam! Look to your adornment at every place of worship" [7:31]</u>***

Superstitions, Innovations etc. were first invented by 'Amr bin Luhai and innovations were treated as good signs and respected [Bukhari 1/499] Eclipses were treated as a bad omen [(Quran

revealed ***"Allah commanded the Sun & Moon to be at the service of mankind (14:33), O mankind don't worship the Sun & Moon, instead worship Allah, the One Who created them for your benefit, if you truly worship Allah" (41:37)***]. ***They used to cast arrows seeking divine help before travelling, besides taking the help of soothsayers, astrologers etc. (Quran says "O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful." (5:90)***. They used to consult the astrologers and soothsayers before every start of work or before starting a new project, ceremony, business, journey etc. (Ibn Hisham 1/152,153, Muslim 1/59). During the pilgrimage season, they do not enter their homes from the front doors, but rather from the back doors or making a hole in the wall in the backside. (2:189). Quran prohibited all types of superstition in which the people were involved. Quran says: ***"Righteousness is not in entering your houses from the back doors. Rather, righteousness is to be mindful of Allah. So, enter your homes through their proper doors, and be mindful of Allah so you may be successful" [2:189].***

IV. **Society**:

It was a tribal society, with tribal pride (48:26) attacking each other, tribal leader was the chief who decided the rules and regulations. Conflicts between the tribes of Bakr & Taghli, Aws & Khazraj, Abs & Dhubyan etc are well known. Generally, the relatives constitute one tribal society with their own rules. Heads of the tribes enjoyed special dictatorial privileges. Women had no role in either decision-making or participating in any male affairs. Pride in the lineage was invoked during the Hajj season.

Verse 48:26 reveals their tribal haughtiness and chauvinism in these words, ***"When the disbelievers developed in their hearts indignation, the indignation of ignorance; then Allah sent down tranquility from Himself upon His Messenger and upon the believers, and made them stick to the word of piety, and they were very much entitled to it and competent for it. And Allah is All-Knowing about everything" [48:26]***

Narrated Abu Hurairah: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: Allah, Most High, has removed from you the pride of the pre-Islamic period and its boasting in ancestors. One is only a pious believer or a miserable sinner. You are sons of Adam, and Adam came from dust. Let the people cease to boast about their ancestors. They are merely fuel in Jahannam (Hell); or they will certainly be of less account with Allah than the beetle which rolls dung with its nose. [Abu Dawood 5116]

Narrated Abu Hurairah: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "People should stop boasting about their fathers who have died, while they are but coals of Hell, or they will be more humiliated with Allah than the dung beetle who rolls dung with his nose. Indeed, Allah has removed the pride of Jahiliyyah from you, and it's boasting about lineage. A person is either a pious believer or a miserable sinner. And people are all the children of Adam, and Adam was created from dust." [Tirmidhi 3955]

However, Judaism and Christianity were also present but were in minorities and were found on the outskirts of the town and they were also influenced by polytheism by their beliefs, customs, dogmas, rituals, traditions, and inclinations towards idols.

V. **Condition of women**:

- Girls were treated as bad omens (verse 16:59).
- Gender-based partiality in foods (6:139)
- Women were financial burdens & shame in society (16:58-59, 81:8-9, 17:31). Father treat them as burdens in times of poverty and shame due to their captivity during battles.
- Female infanticide: Men were treated as superior to women in every matter. There was no system of rights for women. Girls were killed as soon after birth or after attaining age. Some were killed because of poverty which Quran states in verses 6:151, 17:31
- Menstruation was treated as evil & a taboo (verse: 2:222 perhaps)
- No responsibility for men towards women (4:37)
- Forced marriage: Women were not allowed to take a decision about marriage and they must comply with the decisions of the tribal chiefs. There were very limited rules related to women. Quran informs of forced marriage in verse (4:19)
- Improper dressings: There was no proper veil system. A system of headscarves was present. Women wore thin clothes that almost or fully revealed their inner adornments (33:33). Slaves & prostitutes remained unveiled. There are Hadith that states that Umar used to get annoyed by the unveiled, light dressing of the women and usually asked the prophet to ask women to come out with proper veils, fully covered. There are similarities between the women of 7 CE vs women in 2023 CE except that it was the age of ignorance, illiteracy & superstition, whereas this is the age of educated professionalism,

enlightened with the gadgets of science and technology. Unfortunately, the Last days have started and there will be no revelations and further guidance to humanity except what is finalized in form of the Quran.

- Polygamy infinite: There was a system of concubines, slaves, forced marriage etc.
- Whimsical divorce: There was a mutah system of marriage (temporary marriage contract)
- Wife bashing, punching & kicking whimsically
- Women impregnated by holy persons
- Female genital mutilation
- No rights in the property
- Son can inherit stepmother. Son can marry wives of their fathers if divorced or widowed. Two sisters can be married at a time. Son could marry wives of their fathers if divorced or widowed [Abu Daud in a book of marriage] (incest is common even nowadays and there is a lot of news in this regard. But what happened then was ignorance & illiteracy of dark age, jahiliyyah. What now??)
- Widows were confined to the tiny dark chamber for one year, a process called 'iftidad'. She can't touch water, wear the worst clothes, don't clip her nail, remove hair, cannot appear in society for one year, etc. Zaynab bint Abi Salamah said: If a woman's husband died, she would go into a hut and wear her worst clothes, and she would not put on perfume until one year had passed. Then an animal would be brought - a donkey or a sheep or a bird - and she would rub her hands over it, and rarely did (such a woman) rub her hands over anything but it died, then she would come out. Then a piece of dung should be given to her which she would throw, thus bringing her

mourning to an end [Malik's Muwatta (2/596-598) in Chapter at-Talaq, Ma Jaa an al-Hidad.]

VI. **Social Habits**:

- Intoxicants & impure food habits: They used to drink blood, eat dead meat etc.
- Fornication was not frowned upon.
- The child was attributed to someone other than the husband. In one of the Hadith mother Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) states that even marriages constitute to adultery and fornication. Wives were usually sent to others for childbearing, in one another marriage a group of men used to cohabit and after childbirth, a woman should decide who was his father and he have to take responsibility, In another type, many people attended a woman's home and after childbirth, it was attributed to whom it resembled most etc. (Abu Dawood in a book of marriage)
- Adultery was commonly practiced. According to the Hadith of Abu Daud, A man stood up in front of the Prophet and said, O Prophet of all, that boy is my son. I had sexual intercourse with his mother in the pre-Islamic period." The Prophet [Peace be upon him] said: "No claim in Islam for pre-Islamic affairs. The child is to be attributed to the one on whose bed it was born, and stoning is the lot of a fornicator." [Abu Da'ud - Chapter "The child is to the one on whose bed it was born]
- Prostitution was allowed and their houses were marked with a flag on their door. Even the slave girls were also forced into prostitution (24:33)

- Nobles, guests and tribal chiefs were praised through poetry. They were highly hospitable to guests
- Gambling and drinking were a mark of hospitality to guests. That's why Quran said that although they find benefits in them, in fact, drinking is a kind of evil and sin.
- Although the females were killed, some were spared and were sympathetic and they nourished them properly. They have family ties and relations too. Sometimes this tribal pride gave rise to support for his brother/relative/tribesman whether he is an oppressor or oppressed, in both ways.
- They protected their honour at any cost even if their lives were in danger

Female infanticide or Girl child killing was such a serious issue that Allah the Almighty reveals the killing of a girl child together with the horrors of the Last Day which melted my heart when I read this. "When the sun will be folded up, When the stars will fall, losing their luster When the mountains will be moved away from their places, when pregnant camels will be abandoned, when the wild beasts shall be gathered together, when the seas will overflow, when the souls will be joined with their bodies, When the girl buried alive will be asked by Allah- For what sin she was killed? When the Book of Deeds will be opened, when the sky will be stripped away when the Hellfire will be set ablaze, and Paradise will be brought near to every soul when every soul will know what it has brought forward for its accountability…. (And the verse continues))

In verse 16:25, Allah states the situation of a father when he used to get the news of a delivery of a baby girl, ***"Whenever one of them is given the good news of a baby girl, his face grows***

gloomy, as he suppresses his rage. He hides from people because of the evilness of the glad tidings he has been given. Should he keep it, in shame, or bury it, alive in the dust? Undoubtedly, evil is the way they judge!"

In this dark era, the Quran was revealed as a Final Message from the Creator to His Last Messenger with the Final Declaration that, ***"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, & completed My Favour upon you, & have chosen for you Islam as your way of life (5:3) Truly the religion with Allah is Islam (3:19) And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam it will never be accepted of him and in the Last Day he will be one of the losers (3:85) Allah has named His followers as 'Muslim' both before and in this Quran" (22:78)***

"O believers! Be mindful of Allah in the way He deserves, and do not die except in a state of full submission to Him (Muslims)" (3:102)

Let's proceed to **"The Condition of Women in the Post-Islamic Era"**

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Chapter: Four

Women in Post Quranic Era

The 7th Century-Those was the age of Ignorance, Illiteracy, darkness, superstition, and tribal domination. But are women on par with men and enjoying every equal right like that of men today?

Unfortunately, the situation of women is still the same or worse where domestic violence, gender biases, gender-based infanticide, girl trafficking, etc. are so common throughout the world. The most advanced country on the earth has the most domestic violence indicating that only higher education & developments in science & technology are not at all successful or sufficient to shape morality & protect women from domestic violence. The Reuters Foundation released a survey announcing that the U.S. was one of the top 10 most dangerous countries in the world for women, which was later rejected by experts stating that data collection is ludicrously flawed.

Ertharin Cousin is a distinguished fellow of Global Food and Agriculture at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the former executive director of the United Nations World Food Program *stated that* women here in the United States as well as women across much of the world still lack equal access to opportunity. According to Rachel Kearns in her article, "Issues Women still face today" published on 06.03.2017 states that "Nationwide, an astounding amount of about 270,000 women and girls are victims to rape or sexual assault annually. On

average, one out of every five women will be a victim of some form of sexual assault. Domestic violence against women is also a huge factor in violence against women. Although women can and are perpetrators of domestic violence, domestic violence is mostly perpetrated by men toward women. One in three female homicide victims is killed by their partner and 24 per cent of adult women were physically assaulted by their partner".

(***https://www.theodysseyonline.com/issues-women-still-face-today***)

She continues by stating that " Many people around the world do not have the privilege of attending school and a lot of that is because of poverty, but a lot of that also has to do with gender discrimination. There are about 31 million young girls who are not in school as of 2013, and 4 million fewer boys are out of school. About two-thirds of the 774 illiterate individuals around the world are female.

According to the data available at ***National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and YWCA***, the situation of violence against women in the most advanced democratic country on the earth USA has a very depressing figure.

1 in 4 U.S. women are victims of domestic violence

3 U.S. women are murdered by their partners every day

1 in 6 U.S. women has survived attempted or completed sexual assault

1.3 million women reported being raped or sexually assaulted in 2009

15 million U.S. children are exposed to domestic violence each year

The recent case of "misogynist extremism" in California, where a young man killed six people in "retribution" for all the girls who had rejected him, underscores the fact that all societies suffer from violence against women. World Health Organization estimates that 35% of women worldwide experience intimate-partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. (I***sobel Coleman in CNN Published on Fri May 30, 2014***)

According to Carolina Sherwood Bigelow- Women and girls are victims of human trafficking with 75 per cent trafficked for sexual exploitation. The prevalence of sexual assault and violence against women is deep and systemic,

making it one of the most important examples of gender inequality. Worldwide, around 120 million girls, a number which represents slightly more than one in 10, have experienced forced intercourse or another forced sexual act in their lifetime. There are approximately 774 million illiterate adults in the world and two-thirds of them are women. There are approximately 123 million illiterate youths and 61 per cent of them are girls. In 2017, an estimated 308,000 women in developing nations died from pregnancy-related causes and 2.7 million babies died in their first month of life. Many of these deaths could have been prevented with full access to healthcare. Gender-based discrimination has not been resolved.

The no of employed women declined by 4 million in 2020 and 45 million women left the labour market altogether indicating that women suffered steeper job loss than men, In 2021, extreme poverty is on the rise, and progress towards its elimination has

reversed. An estimated 435 million women and girls globally are living in extreme poverty. more women and girls going hungry. Women's food insecurity levels were 10 per cent higher than men's in 2020, compared with 6 per cent higher in 2019. In the first year of the pandemic, there were an estimated 1.4 million additional unintended pregnancies in lower and middle-income countries. Without safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and menstrual hygiene facilities, women and girls find it harder to lead safe, productive, and healthy lives. Globally, more than 1 billion people live in informal settlements and slums. Women and girls, often over-represented in these densely populated areas, suffer from a lack of access to basic water and sanitation, health care, and transportation.

(***https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/10/feature-what-does-gender-equality-look-like-today***)

Atrocities against women are on the rise instead of doing down. It can't be denied that cases of rape have been severely on the rise in India in both quality & quantity, molestation, castism torture, and killings, mental and physical harassment, dowry deaths, throwing acids, honour killing, cases of domestic violence, etc. are not at all resolved. In Pakistan there is severe domestic violence including wife beating, whimsically stoning to death, honour killings etc. The grim situation of women in Pakistan clearly states that they are miles away from the teaching of the Quran which empowered women and provided rights to them at par or more than a man, raising their status from nothing to princess but unfortunately the statistics show differently.

According to a UNESCO 2014 report, Pakistan has the second-highest number of out-of-school children in the world. While the

government of Pakistan has legislated education for all, Gender Concerns International and other NGOs have noted that education remains drastically underfunded at only 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP in 2013, despite a government commitment of 4 per cent. In recent years, the plight of girls' education has been highlighted by various NGOs, action groups, and notably by Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban in 2012 for attempting to attend school.

In 2014, the gender gap report from the World Economic Forum ranked Pakistan 141 out of 142 countries. The concern of Gender Concerns International and many other NGOs, it has been noted that women are often in positions of less power relative to men. Women are generally excluded from decisions making to resolve issues domestically or politically.

(***http://www.genderconcerns.org/country-in-focus/pakistan/the-situation-of-women-in-pakistan/***)

The Facts:

- 20 people a minute are physically abused by someone close to them.
- 10 million people a year are victims of domestic violence
- On an average day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls are made to domestic violence hotlines across the nation
- Domestic violence concerning intimate partners accounts for 15% of all violent crimes.
- As few as 34% of victims ever receive medical treatment for their injuries caused by their intimate partner

- Women are the most victims, especially between ages 18-24, abused by their intimate partners (BF) past or present.
- 94% of suicides (induced murder) are from women
- 72% of the above suicides are due to their intimate partner.

CAUSE DETECTED: MOSTLY ILLEGAL RELATIONS [***Data Source: Domestic Violence Statistics - Domestic Violence: It's EVERYBODY'S Business/USA***]

- Cause of Physical abuse in India is mainly due to a demand for dowry and a desire for a male child
- Other factors include aggressive attitude, poverty/economic hardship, the difference in status, controlling/dominant character, drug addiction, upbringing, and psychological instability.
- Domestic violence is also aggravated by the neglect of conjugal responsibilities because of extramarital affairs or a lack of trust
- The highest numbers of domestic violence cases have occurred in Uttar Pradesh & Odisha. Other states are Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, MP & Maharashtra.
- Domestic violence includes Sexual Abuse, Economic abuse, Psychological Abuse, Religious abuse & Physical abuse.

CAUSE DETECTED: DOWRY & FEMALE BIRTH, MOSTLY ***[Data Source: Domestic violence against women in India: A legal solicitude by Unfolding Lawyers Published on 14.09.2022]***

Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) said, “Before Islam, we used to have no regard for women whatsoever. But when Islam came, and Allah made mention of them, we understood that they have rights over us”- [Bukhari-5505] And surprisingly he proved it by showing how much he respected (not feared) the rights of women after he became Caliph. Once he publicly announced a legal ruling. Suddenly a woman stepped forward and corrected him, quoting the verses of the Quran. Respected Caliph Umar instantly said in front of everyone “The woman has disputed with ‘Umar, and she won.” Ibn Hajar Fath ul-Bari 4853

Women’s Rights was a very new concept to companions. It was like OMG ! Women & Rights, how it could be ? But yes it happend !!!

The rights of women may be of the following types: 1. Social Rights 2. Marital Rights 3. Family Rights 4. Financial Rights 5. Religious Rights etc.

Rights are a very big chapter in Islam according to the Quran & hadith that appeared as thunder upon males and as a light for women in the darkness of the 6th century, after which arrived lots of human-made Rights in form of:

- The Magna Carta-1215: —gave people new rights and made the king subject to the law.
- The Petition of Right-1628: —set out the rights of the people.
- The United States Declaration of Independence-1776: —proclaimed the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen- 1789: —a document of France, stating that all citizens are equal under the law.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights- 1948: —the first document listing the 30 rights to which everyone is entitled.
- The UNHRC -15.03.2006 etc.

But I wonder why so many creations of rights after rights & amendments after amendments. Have Human Rights by Human failed in establishing humanity upon the earth? Even in India at this age of 5G, Science & technology gender-based discrimination is still present and statistics show that India has one of the highest female infanticide incidents in the world. The female child population in the age group of 0-6 years declined from 78.83 million in 2001 to 75.84 million in 2011. During the period 1991-2011, the child sex ratio (0-6 years) declined from 945 to 914. According to the United Nations Population Fund millions of girls demographically go "missing" due to sex-selective abortions. Can we deny the claim of the Quran now about what happened in the age of Jahiliya (Dark Age Ignorance of Illiteracy and Superstition)

Recently Indian Supreme court allowed abortion for single unmarried women at par with married women too as a matter of women's rights, stating that:

" ….. Right of every woman to make reproductive choices without undue interference from the State". ***Now, all women in the country, regardless of marital status***, **(1)** can undergo an abortion up to 24 weeks into pregnancy" It was also stated that:

"This artificial distinction between married and single women is not constitutionally sustainable **(2)** The benefits in law extend equally to both single and married women," the bench said, were ***"to be interpreted such that its benefits extended only to married women, it would perpetuate the stereotype and socially held notion that only married women indulge in sexual intercourse, and that consequently,*** **(3)** the benefits in law ought to extend only to them". it spoke. Article 21 of the Constitution "recognizes and protects the right of a woman to undergo termination of pregnancy if her mental or physical health is at stake. Importantly, ***it is the woman alone who has the right over her body and is the ultimate decision-maker on the question of whether she wants to undergo an abortion… Depriving women of autonomy over their bodies and lives would be an affront to their dignity***," it said.

[***https://indianexpress.com/article/india/all-women-entitled-to-safe-and-legal-abortion-supreme-court-8179879/***]

I think this will now give rise to illegal sexual activities to the level of intoxicating alcoholism. Abortion will be treated like a headache. Just pop a pill of paracetamol and the pain is gone. If we are concerned about the women's body and their decision for abortion then the honourable court should know that the fetus is not her own body and biologically, she has no right to decide for abortion without taking the consent of the fetus too. It is just like murder where the victim does not know why was he killed.

Further, can it be assumed that: A wife can fulfill her sexual desire for another man OFFICIALLY and can husband fulfill his sexual desire for another woman OFFICIALLY, now, IN TERMS OF POINT (2 & 3), and if they don't want pregnancy

they can abort in terms of POINT (1), which will also establish OFFICIALLY that THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN MARRIED & UNMARRIED FOR SEX (Point 2 &3) and if ACCIDENTALLY THERE IS PREGNANCY THEY CAN ABORT (Point 1).

Is it something like this? If yes then the days of 'Jahiliyah' (ignorance) are back again.

To me personally, sex without marriage is like "sex within animals without marriage". Humans are not dogs & donkeys and should behave like a human, they should marry for sex to fulfill the primary necessity of keeping homemaking, its secondary purpose.

And now when abortion will be legal and there will be no fear of pregnancy as there will remain no distinction between married and unmarried, minor, or major, etc. to fulfill sexual desires, then I remember what the Prophet said in 7th CE that the age of darkness to this age of darkness 2023, stating that (just clips):

"……. And fornication never becomes exposed among people, to the degree that they will practice it openly, till epidemics become rampant among them which had never before existed in their ancestors……." Ibn Majah (4019), and al-Hakim (4/540) Shah al jami (3240, 7978) and in as-Silsila as Sahih (1384).

"……A woman will one day be taken and have her stomach cut open (USG), then what is inside her womb will be taken away and discarded (abortion), out of fear of having children." al-Musannaf (7/469, 37297)

and finally, what, Abdullah b. Amr (RA) narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The Hour will not commence until people mate in the streets just as donkeys' mate." I asked, "Will that really happen?" He said, "Yes, it most certainly will happen just before the Last Hours." Muslim (2937), Ibn Hibban (1889) and al-Hakim (4/455-457) ....

I have been compelled to agree with all these Hadith when I found that things have not only started but manifested themselves much earlier and more horrible days are ahead.

Let it be clear first that there is no relation between male & female in Islam except by marriage or lineage [Quran 25:54 declares, ***"And He is the One who created man from humble liquid, then made of him kinship of blood and kinship by marriage. And your Lord is All-Powerful"***.]. But if we move away from this verse towards some other ways of relation then such situations are evident.

1) Sex without marriage,

2) Marriage among minors is officially not allowed but as sexual desire and its age is not defined sexual activities among minors are true that usually remain undisclosed and hidden.

3) Although the age of marriage is defined but virginity may be lost much earlier when minor,

4) Infanticide (murder of a living human cell) allowed in the name of abortion whether intercourse is performed legally or illegally within minors or majors, within marriage, or without marriage.

5) There should not be any distinction between married & unmarried FOR SEX, and if accidentally there is a pregnancy, they can legally abort.

Unfortunately, the situation of women is still the same where domestic violence, gender biases, gender-based infanticide, girl trafficking, etc. are so common throughout the world. Whether it is India, Pakistan, or the USA, if there is no fear of Allah and accountability of his deeds accordingly then neither any divine rule nor a human constitution will be ever successful in providing rights to Women.

Precisely it is women's exploitation in the name of human-made rights if we could understand. So, let's proceed to the **'Rights of women according to the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet'**

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"Most of your sins are because of your tongues"

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

Chapter: Five

Family Relations in Quran

Quran was revealed in the 7th century. Allah illuminated women through His verses. Its Women's Rights in the 7th CE, that came down as thunder upon the males. Unbelievable-Unimaginable. Rules after Rules, Rights after Rights. It was so dominating that companion feared to go beyond it. Before Islam women feared males, but after Islam males feared females.

Allah sent Prophet Moses (Peace be upon Him) to the Pharaoh because he was killing his people. It was in pre-Islamic Arabia where girl children were buried alive. Allah listened to their cries & revealed Quran that provided rights after rights to women.

Situation of women in Pre-Islamic Arabia

- ✓ Age of Ignorance
- ✓ Illiteracy
- ✓ Superstition
- ✓ Tribal Society, attacking each other
- ✓ Honor killing, Loot, captivity, slavery etc
- ✓ Girls treated as a bad omen
- ✓ Women were financial burden & shame in society
- ✓ Female infanticide
- ✓ Menstruation was treated as evil & a taboo
- ✓ No responsibility of men towards women
- ✓ Forced marriage
- ✓ Polygamy infinite
- ✓ Whimsical divorce
- ✓ Wife bashing, punching & kicking whimsically
- ✓ Women impregnated by holy persons
- ✓ Female genital mutilation
- ✓ No rights in property
- ✓ Son can inherit stepmother
- ✓ Widow were confined to tiny dark chamber for one year a process called 'iftidad'. She cant touch water, wear worst clothers, don't clip nail, or remove hair, cannot appear in society for one year, etc.

The concept of rights arrives when there is violence & oppression. It can't be denied that violence against women is present in every country. Domestic Abuse/Violence is a big name that has captured all Human Rights. Unfortunately, either many are unaware of the women's rights provided in Quran or don't follow it resulting in so many miseries on the earth.

Allah says that ***"It is Allah who created human beings from fluid, then makes them kin by blood and marriage. Your Lord is all powerful" 25:54***

There's no relation between males & females except by marriage & lineage. Women's Rights were a very new concept to the people of Arab. When the Quran revealed the concept of Rights, Human Rights, men's & women's rights, were like OMG! Women & Rights, how it could be? But yes, it happened!!! & Women were given IDENTITY in the society

[NB: There is no compulsion in the matter of selecting religion. He may worship idols or remain an atheist. This is according to Quran verse 2:256 which states, "There ***shall be no compulsion in acceptance of the religion. The right course has become distinct from the wrong. So, whoever disbelieves in taghut and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing" [Taghut means false object of worship like idols, heavenly bodies, spirits, human beings, animals, plants and trees etc]***. When the directions are from Allah then it becomes commandments. If I choose Islam as my religion as per verse 2:256, then after that there are no choices of verses inside religion, mind it, it's a major sin then. A Muslim must comply with the commandments of Allah from verse number 1 of chapter

1 to verse number 6 of chapter 114, from its beginning to its end. Quran asserts in verse, 49:14, ***" The desert Arabs say, "We believe." Say, "Ye have no faith; until you say that, 'We have submitted our wills to Allah,' Truly faith has not entered your hearts (until you fully submit to the will of Allah after entering Islam according to 2:208). "O you who have believed, enter into Islam completely and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. [2:208]***

After revealing the procedure of the creation of a Human, the most important verse clearly indicates the procedure of their relationships with each other, family, and society.

1) O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Aware [4:1]

People have been distributed into different communities, nations, colours, and races just to understand each other and remain united in diversity. Humanity and Human rights have been spoken thousands of years ago. Unfortunately, the pride in colour, black and white, racism, casteism, discrimination between male and female etc. despite the similar rights provided by Allah by revealing that ***"He has created the human from male and female".*** It is a claim that all human beings are equal in their rights by birth. So, the concept of male and female domination has been already quashed by the Qur'an. *After the revelation of the Qur'an, the concept of* male and female differences or the concept of a female or male-dominated society is rejected in the constitution of Allah. Not only male-female but rather every

human is at par with each other irrespective of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, and economic status. Of course, the one who is most God-conscious is the most near to Allah in the matter of religion.

2) ***Fear Allah in whose name you ask each other for your rights, and fear the violation of the rights of the womb-relations. Surely, Allah is watchful over you (4:1)***

[Rights provided by Allah to males & females and concerning each other must be respected. Violation of the rights related to wombs i.e., kinship or family is accountable and is being watched by Allah. Relatives are to be honoured and respected. Qur'an is very clear about respecting relations and kinship. A few verses will make it clear how much Allah cares for the relatives irrespective of male or female:

Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and do good to parents, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbour, the neighbour farther away, the companion at your side, the traveller, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are arrogant and boastful (4: 36)

Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but righteousness is in one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, despite a love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveller, those who ask for help, and for freeing slaves & captives; and the one who establishes prayer and gives zakah (annual charity); and those who fulfil their promise when they promise; and those who are patient in poverty and hardship and

during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous (2: 177)

And give the relative his right, and to the poor and the traveller, and do not spend wastefully. [17:26]

We have enjoined man to show kindness to his parents—for his mother bears him, in hardship upon hardship, and his weaning takes two years. [We said] Give thanks to Me and your parents; all will return to Me. But if they pressure you to associate with Me what you do not know of, do not obey them. Still keep their company in this world courteously, and follow the way of those who turn to Me in devotion. Then to Me, you will all return, and then I will inform you of what you used to do. [31:14-15]

If the relatives (who are not heirs) and the orphans and the needy are present at the time of distribution, give them some of it, and speak to them in fair words. [4:8]

It is prescribed for you, when death approach one of you, if he leaves wealth, that he bequeaths unto parents and near relatives in kindness. (This is) a duty for all those who ward off (evil). [2:180]

And let not those who possess dignity and ease among you swear not to give to the near of kin and the needy, and fugitives for the cause of Allah. Let them forgive and show indulgence. Yearn ye not that Allah may forgive you? Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. [24:22]

Even in donations and charities preference is required to be given to their parents, and relatives first, then the orphans, the poor, and the needy and traveller in terms of verse 2:215, ***"….do good to***

your parents and relatives" (2:83), Verily, Allah commands justice, the doing of good and giving to kith and kin (Qur'an, 16:90),

Breaking relations have been treated as a kind of corruption on earth and they are told to be at loss and will be punished. *"..... **and who cut asunder what Allah has ordered to be joined, and do mischief on earth; then they are in loss to themselves. (2:27) or they are cursed, and for them is the terrible home.*** **(13:25)** or like this "***Then if you turn away, what else can be expected but that you will spread corruption in the land and sever your ties of kinship? Those are the ones whom Allah has cursed; so He has made them deaf, and made their eyes blind". [47:22-23]***

All these are clear directions that family relations and womb relations or any relations which are required to be joined for the sake of humanity and preventing corruption must be kept united, respected, and honoured. This also includes the relations between the citizens and different nationalities too. The domestic violence and all other miseries inside a family indicate that we are missing the obedience of those verses. ***"Those who join those things which Allah hath commanded to be joined, hold their Lord in awe and fear the terrible reckoning [13:21]***

Now at this point questions may arise if Qur'an is so complete in providing rights to families and women specifically then, why there are so many miseries in Muslim families and domestic violence there too? It is true but there are reasons.

Honestly, where in the world the laws of the Qur'an are followed fully as directed by Allah? Every direction and commandment of Allah are interlinked and connected to build a strong fabric of

civilized society of humans. If anyone is missed then there becomes a hole in the social fabric. Suppose Zakat & Charity is not paid according to the directions of Allah then poverty will arrive. Hoarding money and riba (usury) is a silent oppression inside a society. Poverty is the main reason for domestic violence in India, Bangladesh & Pakistan. However, it is not limited to the poor only. Dramatic cultural changes arrived after the Industrial Revolution and at present after the entry of the Digital world inside the domain of Human society, resulting in severe social changes, deviating people from the religious teachings whether it is from Bible or the Qur'an. Today if there is a Christian, his ways are not upon the Bible, if there is a Muslim, his ways are not upon the Qur'an. This change inside human society took off the fear of the Lord that he will be accountable one day. Today honestly no one follows religion whereas religion used to be a unit of measurement of a social structure once. Perhaps I will not be wrong if I say that what we used to read in the pages of the book once that ***"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise"*** has now become so obsolete. Today it is like this "Late to bed and late to rise makes them hypertensive, diabetic, confused and unwise". Man became material after the Industrial revolution and now they are a slave of their desire imprisoned inside a digital and material world. We can't deny that today peace and tranquility is being obtained in resorts and villas by spending thousand remaining away from the hectic materialistic and digital world and civilization. So where is the peace?

3) ***And one of His signs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves so that you may find tranquility in them. And He has placed between you compassion, love and mercy. Surely these are signs for people who reflect. (30:21, 7:189)***

[Here is a direction that the couple should respect each other and fulfil each other's demands and obligations so that both should find peace, tranquility, compassion, love, honour, and respect within each other. Life moves on smoothly in this pathway only if there is fear of Allah with a concept that all his deeds have accountability and there is reward and punishments for disobedience. A peaceful family is a healthy family and a healthy family have a long-life expectancy full of peace and joy throughout their life remaining united with each other.]

4) ***Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while a believer—We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward according to what they used to do. [16: 97]***

[There is no distinction between male and female in the matter of good deeds, a wife can surpass man in this respect and will be rewarded accordingly, Man may be a looser IN FRONT OF HIS WIFE, mind it, Allah rejects the concept the "MAN TYPE OF THING"]

Allah empowered women to speak freely about their Rights to their husbands (politically to their governments) & Allah Himself listened when they were complaining about their rights to their husbands & revealed verses directing men to listen to their women.

5) Live with your wives in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good (4:19)

[It's a women's right to be treated with love, compassion, mercy, respect, and due attention. Men are directed to live with wife in

kindness. She must be treated kindly and it is upon men. There may be something he does not like in her but Allah desires that he must find the good in her so that life could run smoothly & peacefully in terms of verse 30:21, where Allah says that it is upon the couple to find peace & tranquility in between themselves]

6) Allah has indeed heard the words of the woman who pleads with you about her husband and lays her complaint before Allah: Allah hears what the two of you have to say. God is all-hearing, all-seeing (58:1)

[After the revelation of this verse women were empowered to speak about their rights freely and they should have listened as Allah Himself heard the complaint. After the revelation of this verse, the companions feared to tread with the rights of the women, for fear of Punishments from Allah. Unfortunately, this fear has gone away resulting in so many miseries in life. The fear of God compels a man to ensure justice, kindness, and humanity whether Politically, Judiciary or as a civilian or citizen.]

7) ***Wives have rights and obligations like those of husbands in a manner that people consider fair. Men have a higher designation than their wives in terms of responsibility and respect (2:228)***

[Both males and females have equal rights to each other. Men and women are not equal, but it is their rights which are equal and somewhere women are ahead of men but in the matter of responsibility of a family as family-man men are higher in responsibility in comparison to women] [Herein after granting status at par with men, Allah then raised the status of women as

a Queen-Bee of a Bee-hive (home) and men as their worker bee providing honey for her & family, Praise be to Allah]

8) "Let the rich man spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him" [65:7]

[This directs men to spend upon their family, they can't produce lame excuses or destroy money wastefully in other causes putting their family in trouble. The wife is entitled to full maintenance for everything from her husband. Even if a wife is rich, she is not supposed to spend for her husband or family as the onus of responsibility lies upon men ONLY.]

9) And fulfil every commitment. Indeed, the commitment will be questioned [17:34]

[This commitment applies to both but as men are higher in responsibility to them it applies more strictly to being a protector and maintainer of a family. The commitment of the marriage pledge is by saying "Yes I agree to a marriage with ABC D/O XYZ". This agreement or commitment is that part for which the Prophet said, fear Allah for this second part of your life. The commitment must be fulfilled and there is no provision for cheating, ill-treatment, not providing protection and maintenance according to Qur'an etc. after the marriage pledge is taken. *However,* it should not be limited to family life only, its equally applicable to civil & political situations too for a country, where diplomats, doctors, lawyers etc. take oaths and pledges of something which practically is never applied. Qur'an has taken it very seriously because there is a warning that every commitment will be questioned, and when Allah will question, a soul will

know what will be its condition. There is the accountability of every deed from every soul, even intention will be also considered as said by the prophet. No one can escape. If the wife, mother or daughter or husband, father or son implement this upon themselves fearing Allah I think the home will become a paradise and subsequently a society and a country and then the whole earth. If one verse can make the whole earth paradise then the whole of the Qur'an obviously can bring paradise from heaven to the earth.]

10) Your wives are your garments, and you are their garments. Allah knew what ye used to do secretly among yourselves" (2:187)

[This indicates both must be honest to each other and must fit into each other through love, affection and understanding with such an accurate measurement just like a garment fit into the body and enhances beauty. It also indicates the requirements of each other same as a body which needs a garment in every situation even after death, the spouses need each other just whether it is for sex, any social requirements etc. So, if a couple could understand the importance of these verses, I think the home will become a paradise.]

11) ***"Permitted to you, on the night of the fast is the approach to your wives. They are your garments, and ye are their garments." [2:187]***

[Sexual requirements may be from both sides. As such this allegory has been used, both are garments of each other. This defines the importance of sexual intimacy between husband and wife to the extent of so much that Allah allows it even on the

night of Ramadan so that they could remain safe from immorality & indecency quoting an example of garments that hides the shame of male & female, and a person has a faith upon it so much that he can freely come out of home with a faith that the garment will not betray him and hide his shame from others. Similarly, the husband and wife prevent immorality and indecency by allowing sexual intimacy within each other]

12) To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; He creates whatever He wills. He grants females to whomever He wills, and He grants males to whomever He wills. [42:49]

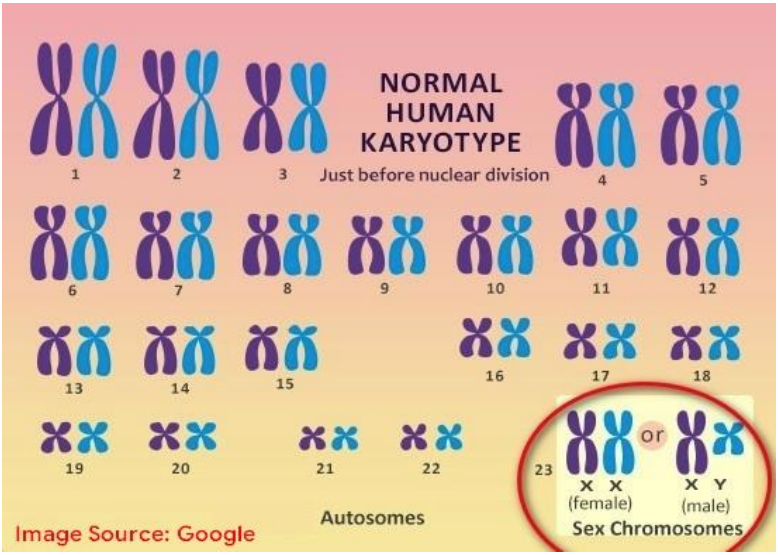
It was in the 7th century when Allah demolished the concept of a curse on a woman that gives birth to a girl child. Allah declared that it is not women but rather Allah the Almighty Himself who grants female and male to whom so ever He desires. It's not upon either male or female. So Believers obey as it's Allah speaking in Qur'an, and Muslims never question if and buts when the Qur'an commands and decides. Allah demolished the superstition that women are responsible for female baby birth. This women's empowerment was like a crown upon their heads as Allah declared it is He who decides the fate of the fetus, not women or men. Later it was proved that its men who are responsible for the female fetus.

[NB: When the directions are from Allah then it becomes a commandment. There is no compulsion in selecting religion as truth is clear from falsehood and there is no compulsion in the matter of religion in terms of verse 2:256, but when the religion has been selected, then after that there is no choice of verses inside religion, mind it, its major sin then. A MUSLIM MUST

COMPLY THE COMMANDMENTS OF ALLAH FROM VERSE NO 1:1 TO VERSE 114:6. Let it be clear that not-following is a sin, but protesting or preaching against it is treason & blasphemy in religion, just like treason if we reject the political constitution. Simple, no issues, I think]

However, we are not supposed to remain ignorant as Allah asks us to explore His creation and understand his Mighty Magnificence in His creation.

Let's explore how MEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENERATION OF MALE ZYGOTE of course after the decisions of Allah have arrived in terms of 42:49.
Female = 23 pairs of XX chromosome
Male = 22 pairs of XX chromosomes + 1 pair of XY Chromosomes. This Y chromosome of males is the factor through which Allah commands male and female babies.
The female has nothing to do with male or female babies as they are always honest in their chromosome bank, all XX chromosomes



Look it's all about Honest Females & dishonest males

So, the responsibility is upon Allah, neither male nor female as male & female are within His commands but science fixes the responsibility upon the male. However, a girl child is a blessing in a Muslim family.

LET IT BE CLEAR THAT IT IS WOMENS RIGHT NOW TO ASK MEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT ITS ALLAH WHO GRANT MALE AND FEMALE IN TERMS OF RELIGION, OTHERWISE ITS THEY WHO HAVE A RIGHT TO BLAME MEN FOR FEMALE BABY NOW, AS EXPLAINED both in terms of Science & Qur'an together. This will be a relief to an Indian woman where girl fetus killing is at its peak according to the data below.

Islam closed the door of blame to women for the birth of a girl child in the 7th Century which was later sealed by science. But even in 2023 women in India are cursed for girl children and abortions are now legal by an Indian court.

India Has One of the Highest Abortion Rates in the World

By Fr. Mark Hodges | July 19, 2019 | 0

- The number of abortions in India is over 21 times higher than government reports, says study
- India's abortion rate is on a par with communist China and its forced abortions
- Study used by pro-abortionists to call for looser laws, more contraception, greater abortion access
- Now an Indian court rules women have a right to abort all the way up to birth

MUMBAI, India, July 18, +2019 (HLI): India has over twenty-one times the number of abortions than the nation's government officially admits, and a new court ruling may triple that number.

A study published in the Lancet Health Global medical journal found that at least 15.6 million abortions are committed every year. The government had been consistently reporting about 700,000, but that doesn't count private abortuaries or self-administered "at home" chemical abortions.

More news at https://www.hli.org/2019/07/india-has-one-of-the-highest-abortion-rates-in-the-world/

Millions of female foetuses aborted in India

Sex selection of foetuses in India has led to 7.1 million fewer girls than boys up to age six, a gender gap that has widened by more than a million in a decade, according to a study published in The Lancet.

More at:

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/8532190/Millions-of-female-foetuses-aborted-in-India.html

"O people of faith! Save yourselves and your families from the Fire whose fuel is humans and stones." [66:6]

[The guardian of a family is a man who has been allotted more responsibility than women. However, it's the responsibility of

both but men being one designation above, they are more responsible for their family and family affairs. So, it's men who are responsible for cordial family relations, good behaviour with wives and children, good upbringing to children, arranging for them proper food, clothing etc. including protecting them from both physical and spiritual harms, preventing them from performing sins etc. However, Women are also the guardians of their husbands and children for whom they will be also accountable on the Day of Judgement. A good family always remain involved in prayers, fasting, charity, feeding the poor, the orphans, caring for the neighbour, teaching people what is good and remaining away from committing sins and asking people not to commit sin, injustice, corruption etc. on the earth. Can a woman expect the deprivation of rights in such a family? Never.

The same applies to the civil & political situations too for a country].

14) ***Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, for what Allah has bestowed them, and because they support them from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient and guard in their husband's absence his property & her chastity. (4:34)***

[The term is that men are a 'qawwam' or 'qayyim' which means a person who is responsible for managing the affairs of either an individual or an organization, or a family etc. for their well-being giving them protection, safety and fulfilling all basic requirements. Thus, it becomes a right of a woman to demand all these basic requirements & amenities from his husband alternately. Qur'an provides basic rights to a woman if we understand the verse in this way. Why do we need a PM or a

President for a country? Because a country is a big social unit that requires a manager or ‘qawwam’ or ‘qayyim’ to run the country smoothly. Every organization like offices, hospitals, industries, workshops, business organizations etc. all have the same structure where there is an ahead of an organization. A family is one such social unit that too needs a PM or President or a Chairman or MD. It is so simple. Both men and women have been together assigned this task by Allah but their fields are different. Men should support women through their earnings and woman should take care of their home and their family. In that sense, men can demand from her obedience, chastity, and proper management of the home whereas a woman can demand to form her husband’s maintenance in form of food, lodging, status, respect, and protection along with obedience, chastity, and proper management of home too. That’s what Allah said in one different verse that men are a degree above women it’s the responsibility of a family. If both male and female can understand their responsibilities and fear Allah according to this verse, then how can the rights of both men and women be deprived? There is never a deprivation of a woman’s rights if Qur’an is followed.

15) If women give a pledge of allegiance for righteousness, then it must be accepted rather rejecting it (being a woman)

If women give a pledge of allegiance for righteousness, then it must be accepted rather rejecting it (60:12) [Right to decide for themselves] [Pretending that she is a woman, so she can’t decide good and bad or may be lying, or who gave her an authority to women to take decisions of their type of concept etc. that happened in those days & even now]. Today it is felt that allegiance to Islam is forced conversion and they are prevented or attacked for conversion. There is no provision for such things

in Islam and women are fully allowed to take their own decisions for the family and themselves. Let the religion be so powerful enough to draw people towards itself. That's why Islam is very clear that there is no compulsion in religion because the religion is selected from its truths and not from lies, falsehood, threatening & deceptions. Religion is from the heart, not from the tongue. Allah rejects the religion from the tongue. So, Allah declared if the woman comes with a pledge of allegiance to Islam, then accept it, because it's Allah who decides which is from the heart and which is from the tongue.

Verse 60:12 [O Prophet! When believing women (if she has believed) come to you to give you the Bai'ah (pledge), that they will not associate anything in worship with Allah, that they will not steal, that they will not commit illegal sexual intercourse, that they will not kill their children, that they will not utter slander, intentionally forging falsehood (i.e. by making illegal children belonging to their husbands), and that they will not disobey you in Maruf (Islamic Monotheism and all that which Islam ordains), then accept their Baiah (pledge), and ask Allah to forgive them. Verily, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.]

16) ***If any of your those of the rt hand possess/ bonds men women want freedom by paying compensation, then comply and write a deed/agreement and pay for them from your wealth which He has given to you (so that they can be free) [Qur'an 24:33]***

17) Do not force your bondwomen into prostitution, to obtain temporary worldly gain like what happened before the revelation, if they want to remain chaste [24:33]

If we say that there are no bondwomen or slavery today, then we are an illusion. Today the scenario and the picture in it have just changed even though there are human rights organizations, a high level of education among all and activists spreading awareness and humanity, we can't deny Slavery exists. I must add this article collected from the ***scroll. in*** to make it clear that even today there is slavery in a more horrible form. Bonded labour, prostitution, human trafficking etc. are nothing but polite and civilized terms used instead of slave and slaves. The small article written by Catherine Armstrong is worth reading:

Slavery still exists and India has the largest number of slaves in the world

scroll.in/article/898862/India-is-home-to-the-worlds-largest-slave-population-yes-slavery-still-exists

In the article 'The Conversation- Slave Labour' Catherine Armstrong writes that India is home to the world's largest slave population (Yes, slavery still exists), In the past, the desire for sugar drove the growth of slavery. Today, the global consumption of electronic goods is the primary culprit.

In India, many people work as slave labour in the brick kiln industry | AFP

When we think of slavery, many of us think of historical or "traditional forms" of slavery – and of the 12 million people ripped from their West African homes and shipped across the Atlantic for a lifetime in the plantations of the Americas.

But slavery is not just something that happened in the past – the modern-day estimate for the number of men, women and children forced into labour worldwide exceeds 40 million. Today's global slave trade is so lucrative that it nets traffickers more than $150 billion each year.

Slavery affects children as well as adults

Debt bondage often ensnares both children and adults. In Haiti, for example, many children are sent to work by their families as domestic servants under what is known as the Restavek system – the term comes from the French 'rester avec', "to stay with". These children, numbering as many as 3,00,000, are often denied an education, are forced to work up to 14 hours a day, and are sometimes subjected to sexual abuse.

Slavery is not always based on race

Then, as of now, race is not always the main reason for enslaving someone. In the past, those who were living in poverty, who did not have the protection of kinship networks, and those displaced by famine, drought or war were often caught up in slavery.

In the United Kingdom, nail salons, restaurants, music festivals and farms have all been found to have people working in slavery. Victims of human trafficking come from all parts of the world and from all walks of life. There isn't just one type of modern-day slavery, it takes many forms.

Your gadgets could be to blame

The demand for certain types of goods has propelled slavery's numbers. In the past, the desire for sugar drove the growth of slavery. Now, the global consumption of electronic goods has exacerbated slavery in the Coltan mines of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many slaves or trafficked victims are often exploited in mining for gold, coltan, molybdenum, niobium, tin etc. – which can be used in electronic goods sold around the world.

According to Save the Children, 5,000 to 6,000 young children work in the Coltan mining industry, surrounded by armed guards to prevent their escape. Much of the profit from this trade goes to fund ongoing militia warfare in Central Africa.

Traditional slavery still exists

Chattel slavery (where one person is the property of another) is illegal but still exists, especially in the West African country of

Mauritania, where abolitionists' efforts to stamp out the practice have been in vain.

The organization Fight Slavery Now says that today at least 90,000 Mauritanians are the property of others while up to 6,00,000 men, women and children are in a bonded labour situation – up to 20% of the population.

India has the greatest number of slaves globally

India has the highest number of slaves in the world, with estimates ranging from 14 million to 18 million people. In India, many people work as slave labour in the brick kiln industry – this includes women and children.

Now, as in the past, not all slaves are forced into slavery. Historically, some experienced such severe poverty that they had no choice but to sell themselves to be bound to another person. And similar cases still happen around the world today.

It involves global movement

Long-distance movement is common in the slavery of the past and the present. For West Africans in the premodern era, the journey across the Atlantic must have been unimaginable.

Today, labourers move around the world freely looking for work, but some end up caught in slavery-like situations. They are promised a good job with decent conditions and wages but instead are trapped in a cycle of debt and despair, where they are bound to their employer with no chance of escape.

Many of the workers constructing the stadia for the Qatar World Cup in 2022 come from South Asia. Amnesty International says these workers often have their meagre wages docked unjustly, their passports seized, and they are forced to work in life-threatening conditions.

Slave soldiers fight in wars

One similarity between historic and modern slavery is the use of enslaved labour, especially children, in armies.

In recent years, at least 30,000 children have been abducted and forced to labour in the Lord's Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony, in Northern Uganda.

Over four centuries ago, Christian children were valued as soldiers in the army of the Ottoman Empire. The children were taken from their homes, forced to convert to Islam and put to work in the military.

Slavery was never abolished

Today, an active abolition movement still exists. It applies lessons from the earlier abolition movement that ended the transatlantic slave trade – which recognised the importance of victim stories as a powerful tool to raise awareness.

Just as Africans such as Olaudah Equiano became part of the abolition movement in 18th-century London when they talked about their lives as slaves, so today, the benefit of encouraging survivors to share their stories is recognised.

In the 1790s, to persuade the British government to end slavery in the British Empire, female abolitionists organised boycotts of sugar that had been produced using slave labour and instead bought “fair trade” produce. Similarly, today, manufacturers and growers recognise that guaranteeing a product as fair trade – and free from slavery – will help their goods sell.

Slavery still exists in many forms today, and the impact it has on millions of people is no less devastating than in the past. Yet, ordinary people can use their power as consumers to combat modern slavery, simply by paying attention to what they buy and raising awareness among their friends, family, and colleagues.

Catherine Armstrong is a lecturer in American History, at Loughborough University. This article first appeared on The Conversation. This article has been included here only for the awareness for sake of humanity and their rights, only.

Does India have 8 million slaves? | India News

timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/does-india-have-8-million-slaves/articleshow/90986262.cms

Liberty in India

Team TOI Plus

Updated: Apr 22, 2022, 14:31 IST

"My sister is 10 years old. Every morning at 7am, she goes to the bonded labour man, and every night at 9pm she comes home. He treats her badly; he hits her if he thinks she is working slowly or if she talks to the other children, he yells at her, he comes looking for her if she is sick and cannot go to work. I feel this is very difficult for her. I don't care about school or playing. I don't care about any of that. All I want is to bring my sister home from the bonded labour man. For ₹600, I can bring her home — that is our only chance to get her back. We don't have ₹600... we will never have ₹600."

That's from a 1996 report by Human Rights Watch on bonded labour in India, and that story is told by Lakshmi, a nine-year-old beedi roller in Tamil Nadu. Sure, that's more than 25 years ago, but have things changed since?

Why this story

They call it bonded labour, but that's just a polite term for slavery. And India has 8 million people working in abysmal conditions, for almost no pay despite a ban on the practice

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/does-india-have-8-million-slaves/articleshow/90986262.cms,

This has been collected from the link which makes us aware of what happens to a bonded labour, as said from her own mouth

[Let it be clear that the system of slavery was previously available among the Arabs before Islam, so naturally, it came as an inheritance from old systems/religions after Islam arrived. Surprisingly every previous Scripture has hundreds of verses where procedures of Slavery & Slave acquisition have been

CLEARLY DEFINED. But there are reasons for that. In those days there were regular battles between the kings and the ones who were defeated, their land and people were seized and inherited. The naturally defeated population used to become slaves. Islam revealed thousands of rules for their fair treatment and freedom so that the system could be abolished gradually. People in those times were already accustomed to such society and the systems of inheritance by the kings and such things were nothing new or irregular to them which we can't comprehend with the concept of 21st-century society. They grew such a mentality that whenever there will be battles between the kings, they are going to be a part of slave and slavery which was quite normal in those civilizations. But after the revelation of the Qur'an things changed and slave got their voice. Qur'an knew that battles and wars cannot be eradicated, so it provided RIGHTS to slaves. This is an important point to understand. Islam does not propagate slavery. It never did, it prescribes rules for their freedom and their rights till they are free and the system is finished gradually.

THERE IS NOT A SINGLE VERSE THAT SHOWS THE PROCEDURE OF SLAVERY AND THEIR ACQUISITION PROCEDURE IN Qur'an, UNLIKE ALL THE PREVIOUS SCRIPTURES, except about their rights, fair treatment & freedom like verse 2:177-178/4:92/5:89/58:3/90:13- freeing slaves has been asked, 2:221/4:3/4:25/24:32- here free man or woman can marry slave and make them free or even captives under certain conditions, 24:33- Slaves can't be forced for prostitution, 33:55- Rights provided like a Mahram (a relation where woman do not maintain Hijab) inside a home where she can freely enter the room of her master etc. There is not a single direction for the acquisition of slaves. Unfortunately, ***if such a***

situation arises today then the captives/bondmen and women etc. should be treated according to the terms and conditions as laid down in Qur'an. They can't be killed *en-masse* as a defeated citizen.

I must insist to investigate the scriptures to get into the religion instead of looking into the ways of their followers. Followers may misguide but the scriptures will never. Unfortunately, thousands of years after the revelation of these verses asking to free slaves, marry slaves, fair treatment etc. the Americans brought hell upon the black people that started from the 17th to 19th century, known to everyone which amounted to a crime against humanity, by performing a crime against the Black in form of Slavery.

[Point to be noted finally is that Allah dissolved all the brutalities & atrocities upon the slaves by the previous peoples asking the Believers to start freeing them slowly and gradually. Allah asked them to write their freedom deeds & pay compensation for freedom. Women slaves were prevented from pushing into prostitution]

Honestly, is not a Qur'an indeed, "A BOOK OF RIGHTS".

18) Rights to parents with a special indication for mother "And We have enjoined upon man to take care of his parents. His mother carried him with hardship upon hardship, besides weaning him for 2 years. So gives thanks to Me and your parents, and unto Me is your final destination". [31:14]

"Allah has decreed that you worship none but Him. And honour your parents. If one or both reach old age in your care, never say to them even 'ufff,' nor shout at them. Rather,

address them respectfully. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, "My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small." [17:23-24]

These verses have a very deep understanding related to family issues. First, the children are reminded by Allah towards a duty he attaches to them reminding them that when they were in that portion of their life cycle when except milk nothing used to be their food, their mother nourished them by providing here blood in form of milk. And it was not just for a week or a year that when they became independent, her mother took whole 2 years to make them healthy nourishing them every day, day after day by feeding her milk, and then when they grew the strength to run and speak, their parents both together came as their protector and a guide. The point to be noted here is that after reminding the favour of her mother that if the children are not careful with their parents, Allah threatens that Allah is their return so that even for the fear of Allah they should take care of them, at least.

In the next verse, Allah reminds us about His worship and after that, the next thing Allah attaches after his worship is the duty of children towards their parents. This is a very big issue so far; the religion is concerned as worship of Allah is followed by caring and honouring parents. In old age even speaking with a raised voice has been prohibited. Very humble respect has been asked by Allah, The Almighty. He has quoted wings of humility. This means the wings of a bird, that soar in the sky spreading apart with the pride of flying at the top. Allah asks when you are at the top of your youth, of success, and fame and flying high with the topmost of your energy level, don't forget your parents, Allah reminds parents them when they are at the climax of their success in their life cycle, Allah asks them to bring down their wings of

pride down to their parents with all the respect, honour, and humbleness for them who were, in fact, the real sculptor of your life, name and fame. Allah commands that their wings of pride and success must be down before their parents always. What a similitude. Wings are also used by the birds to shelter their babies in rain, in sun, and against enemies. Allah demands the same protection when they grow old and the position of the life cycle when they need attention most humble wings of protection for them. What a similitude.

◆◆◆

The Messenger of Allah [ﷺ] said: **"You won't be true believers unless you have compassion." When people heard him, they said "Oh Prophet, we are all merciful." He replied "I am not referring to the mercy that one of you would have towards his companion or close friend but I am referring to the mercy or compassion to all beings."**

- Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)